

going over or we are not going over? How about taking the average of the last couple that have been built where there have been any facilities similar to it and using that as a guideline? My problem is it is not \$176 million; it is \$176 million plus \$44 million, and other people are going to authorize another \$200 million, so we are going to be talking about a half a billion dollars, and that is my problem with it.

I ask unanimous consent at this time to withdraw this amendment. I appreciate the courtesies extended to me during the debate. I know the desire is right. I think the money that is out there is extraordinarily too much, especially when we have documented estimates to repair the present facilities between \$50 million and \$60 million and to build new ones between \$120 million and \$150 million. So anything above that is fluff at this time, which we can't afford. We can meet our obligations, but we can't go much beyond that and meet our other obligations. So I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry: What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALEXANDER). The amendment of the Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, would the Senator from Colorado yield for a question? If the Senator would allow me, it is my understanding we would be able to voice vote my amendment that is pending right now. If the Senator would allow me to do that, we could dispose of this amendment in 30—I have been told I am incorrect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, through the Chair, I think it would be appropriate for my friend from North Carolina to have a conversation about how to move forward with his amendment. At this point I ask unanimous consent that the pending business be set aside so I may offer an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3736

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3736.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. SALAZAR] proposes an amendment numbered 3736.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funding for critical National Forest System projects to address the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season, reduce the risk of catastrophic fires, and mitigate the effects of widespread insect infestations throughout the National Forest System)

On page 172, strike lines 15 through 21 and insert the following: "System" for necessary expenses, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amount provided under this heading is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006."

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, a few days ago I came to the floor of the Senate to talk about a very important issue that is facing the entire Nation with respect to the fire emergency we are seeing across many of our States, including many of our western States. At that point I proposed an amendment that would provide an additional \$30 million in disaster emergency aid so the Forest Service can take on the work it needs to take on to assure that we don't have the destruction from fires we have seen in prior years.

In my own State alone, we have seen what happens when you have the fire situation getting out of control. In 1994, the Storm King fire near Glenwood Springs ended up with the deaths of over 14 firefighters. Back in 2002, we had another fire, the Hayman fire, which caused 138,000 acres of national Forest Service lands to be burned across 4 different counties. These kinds of fires are the kinds we are seeing across our entire country, and we need to make sure we have the resources in order to be able to fight the fires we are going to be seeing in the weeks and months ahead throughout our great Nation.

What I am doing with this amendment is simply providing the amount of money that would be needed to get us up to the levels for firefighting that we had during the prior year. It is something that is essential to our country, it fits within the framework of addressing disaster emergencies, and I am hopeful my colleagues in the Senate will agree with me and support this amendment.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

At this time there is not a sufficient second.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I hope that the Senate could accept this on a voice vote. I don't know that we need to have a roll-call vote. It seems to me to be an amendment that should be accepted by the Senate. It calls for the use of—my piece of paper says \$50 million, and I heard the Senator say \$30 million, or did I hear him wrong?

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, if I may respond to my friend from Mississippi, the amendment asks for \$50 million because we attempted to make

sure we were protecting the amount of money that had been requested in the bill in the Forest Service items for Katrina recovery. So this is \$30 million in addition to that, which brings up the amount in the amendment to \$50 million.

Mr. COCHRAN. So the bill as reported from our committee was \$20 million, and this adds \$30 million?

Mr. SALAZAR. That is indeed correct. I am willing to withdraw my request for a vote at this point in time if, indeed, we can resolve this by a voice vote.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am willing to urge the Senate to accept the amendment. There is clearly a need for funding, and we will have an opportunity to monitor this carefully to be sure that money is not wasted. But clearly, the devastation to timberland and forestry resources is immense. It is indescribable. You have to see it. You can drive along hundreds of miles of forestlands in the region, and it is staggering, the amount of destruction that has occurred.

I compliment the Senator and thank him for offering the amendment and assure him of my support and recommendation that we accept it.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, regarding Senate amendment No. 3637 to H.R. 4939, I believe it is important to clarify the intent of this amendment. The intent of Senate amendment No. 3637 is similar to Senate amendment No. 3645; however, due to technical considerations I had to redraft the amendment. The intent of Senate amendment No. 3637 is to provide \$20 million to the Forest Service to address the consequences of Hurricane Katrina and other hurricanes of the 2005 season, as the Senate Appropriations originally reported. My amendment retains that \$20 million for the gulf coast and adds another \$30 million to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires and mitigate the effects of widespread insect infestations throughout the entire National Forest System.

The need for this additional funding is highlighted in the State of Colorado. In Colorado, the Forest Service expects to conduct 35,000 acres of hazardous fuel reduction work as well as process timber sales in insect infested areas. However there is a capacity for more critical work to be done. Colorado has approximately 35,000 additional acres that are approved for hazardous fuel treatments; however the Forest Service lacks the funds to carry out those treatments. Colorado also has 12,000 acres ready for timber sales that would benefit the fire and insect situation but for lack of funding are not being carried out in fiscal year 2006. I use Colorado as an example, but this problem exists throughout the Western United States where extended drought and insect infestations have created dangerous conditions ripe for catastrophic fires in 2006. It represents a true emergency. Waiting to address this issue in the fiscal year 2007 appropriations